The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information as will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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CANADIAN EMPLOYERS END ANTI-UNION PLAN

Hamilton, Ontario, Feb. 7.—The anti-union policy of the Canadian manufacturers' association has failed.

This change was noted at a meeting in this city when representatives of the association declined to join in the fight against the British Columbia eight-hour law. In reading the report of the industrial relations committee, Chairman Anthes emphasized the need for a changed attitude toward organized labor. One delegate offered an amendment, which practically rejected the new position, but Colonel Hatch, the presiding officer, courteously refused to submit the amendment. The anti-unionist arose in angry protest, but the meeting ignored his complaint.

Advocates of the new policy insist that if any group of business men wish to oppose organized labor they can at liberty to do so, but the Canadian manufacturers' association should cease being a party to every union-smashing movement. This policy, it is shown, has alienated the organized workers and sympathizers from attempts of the Canadian manufacturers' association to interest these forces in legislation that is intended to be helpful to Canada.

It is claimed that officers of the association even attempted to control newspapers of the Dominion and that they held secret conferences to further that plan.

CHILD LABOR BAN FOES WARP PUBLIC OPINION

St. Francis, Wis., Feb. 7.—Opposition to the federal child labor amendment indicates "a great lack of confidence in our congress and supreme court," says Rev. Francis J. Haas, Ph. D., editor of the Ecclesiastical Review, published by the Alumni association of St. Francis seminary.

"The amendment proposes to give congress the power to regulate the labor of persons under 18 years of age. Nothing is said about their education," says Rev. Haas.

"Conceivably, the word 'labor' can be stretched into meaning education that a child may be engaged in, for example, the regular activities of school work. Interpretations of this kind have given rise to certain fears regarding the freedom of private schools. These fears, however, are not warranted by past experience, and they indicate a gross lack of confidence in our congress and supreme court.

"Indeed, if human nature is so little worthy of ordinary trust, no opposition to an amendment such as we are considering will prevent the passage of laws against our more essential schools. On the other hand, if as Catholics we oppose the amendment because of its possible and only remotely possible evil effects on our parochial schools, we are putting ourselves on record as being willing to let the public welfare suffer rather than expose our group interests to a distant and improbable danger. A policy of this kind must inevitably strike back against us and our parochial school system. Finally by opposing the amendment we should not overlook the fact that we are aligning ourselves with a group that is a voting minority and only a voting minority like ourselves."

Rev. Haas declared that the propaganda of the amendment foes and the claims made by these opponents "is no compliment to the poise and penetration of public thinking."

JOHN FLETT HONORED

Toronto, Canada, Feb. 7.—John A. Flett, veteran A. F. of L. organizer, was tendered a complimentary dinner in this city by representatives of organized labor. Every speaker called attention to the long and honorable trade union record of the guest. Some of the speakers took occasion to dissent from a statement made last fall by the Dominion premier, Mackenzie King, who said that the labor movement could obtain little from the federal government if the spokesman is Mr. Flett.

"No opposition from those who are friendly to big interests can stop the development of the labor movement," Mr. Flett said. "It is democracy or despotism, fraternity or mastery, partnership or subjection. These constitute world ideals between which there is an irrepressible conflict. The sovereignty of one means evolution; the sovereignty of the other means revolution. Which shall it be?"

When Mr. Flett was appointed A. F. of L. organizer 25 years ago, his co-worker was Jeff Pierce, who died several years ago.

"SENATORIAL COURTESY"

Washington, Feb. 7.—The bill to increase postal rates and wages was before the senate when the gentleman from Virginia and the gentleman from New Hampshire indulged in "senatorial courtesy," thusly:

Mr. Swanson—If $50,000,000 will be derived from the increased rates on fourth class mail matter, the aggregate would be nearly $60,000,000 under the department's own figures, would it not?

Mr. Moses—That is what I have said.

Mr. Swanson—I did not hear the senator say it.

Mr. Moses—I did not say that was the department's estimate.

Mr. Swanson—The senator has a way of talking to himself.

VOTE ON CHILD LABOR NOT FINAL IN STATES

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 7.—State legislatures that have rejected the federal child labor amendment may reverse their position and approve the amendment, in the opinion of Prof. Walter W. Cook, authority on constitutional law at the Yale law school.

Prof. Cook questions the opinion expressed in some quarters that when a sufficient number of state legislatures have voted not to ratify the amendment it is finally disposed of.

As proof of his opinion he cites the fourteenth amendment, which three states—North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia—at first rejected and later ratified through newly-chosen legislatures.

P. O. WAGE INCREASE IN SUSPICIOUS TANGLE

Washington, Feb. 7.—The house has refused to consider the postal wage bill, recently passed by the senate, on the ground that the latter body has violated this provision of the constitution:

"All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the house of representatives, but the senate may propose or concur with amendments, as on other bills."

A minority in the senate urged that this legislation originate in the house, but this plan was rejected. The majority voted to re-establish the wage increase rejected by the president. To overcome presidential objections, rates on certain mail classes were increased, though there is a dispute between Senator Moses, who sponsored the bill, and the post office department, on the amount the increase will raise. These senators voted against the bill on constitutional grounds: Messrs. Norris, Brookhart, Borah, Shipstead, Harrison, Norbeck, Underwood and Swanson.

The house now rejects the bill by a vote of 225 to 53. The question is a legal one, and while both branches are discussing the issue, the date when congress adjourns—March 4—approaches.

The smart in which the wage increase has become involved is causing post office employes to ask if this situation just happens to be an accident. These workers insist that if the administration favors a wage increase it can be put through before adjournment.

There is an attempt to becloud the issue so that in the event of failure to pass this legislation responsibility can not be definitely fixed.

EIGHT-HOUR STATUTE FAILS TO AID LABOR

Vancouver, British Columbia, Feb. 7.—A general dilution of the hours-of-work act is awakening unorganized workers to the value of trade unionism.

Provisions to the law have been granted in many industries since last December. These include sawmills, the coal industry, ship building, logging, fishing and bakery.

Besides these unorganized, there are a great many others who come under the act, but who work more than 48 hours because they fear to complain to the authorities.

Many others do not come under the act, and they, too, are discontented. These work in unorganized offices, but overlook the fact that they have never attempted to establish the eight-hour day, says the Labor Statesman.

"They have been content to let others organize and fight for them, sometimes this has proved costly. In the future these workers will have to join a union that will aid them in their struggles, or they will not be strong enough to enforce their demands.

"When it is necessary for a government to make concessions to labor it means that the workers are not organized sufficiently well to make their own conditions."

The labor paper points out that where workers are organized the eight-hour act does not apply to them nor are they subject to the whims of office holders who relieve employers of duties that was intended to benefit the workers.

TEAMSTERS HONOR GREEN

Cincinnati, Feb. 7.—President Green of the A. F. of L. was the guest of honor at a testimonial dinner in this city given by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

Outside union executive spoke at length on the aims and purposes of trade unionism, and appealed to workers to devote every energy to this cause.

"I am not thinking of myself nor of the individual equation," he said. "I am thinking of the cause which we represent, our own great movement, the organization of which has been brought to such a high standard of perfection as a result of years of effort and sacrifice on the part of members of organized labor."

President Green reviewed the gains made by the Brotherhood of Teamsters from the time this calling was unorganized to the present, with low wages and miserable working conditions.

President Tobin of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters was present, as were a large number of other trade union executives and members.

FUR WORKERS GAIN

New York, Feb. 7.—Members of Revillion Freres, the largest retail fur establishment in this city, has signed an agreement with the Fur Workers' union. This concern was formerly a leading opponent of the furriers.

MANY JAP FARMERS

Seattle, Feb. 7.—A federal survey shows that one out of every seven among the 16,362 farm people in this county is a Japanese.

UNION LABEL IS EMBLEM OF DEMOCRACY

The union label is an assurance of good working conditions; a guarantee of skilled craftsmanship.

It is a certificate of sanitation, living wages and reasonable hours.

But above and beyond these is the great spiritual fact that the union label represents free labor.

It is the emblem of collective bargaining—the first step workers must take to acquire self ownership and independence.

It attests conciliation and fair dealing between employer and employe.

It is a septre of peace.

It typifies a unity and harmony that befit progress based on wholesome, orderly discontent.

It signifies that workers are conceded the right to unite, to have a voice in industry.

It is a symbol of democracy; a challenge to industrial autocrats. It is an index to the new social order.

A demand for the union label does more than give employment. Men further their principles not through precept and law, but by example; by their own moral conduct.

Every call for the union label is a profession of one's faith in a mighty principle—the unity of workers.

To insist on the union label is to stand by one's colors—to announce to the world that trade unionism is the workers' one and only developer and defense.

A hostile or indifferent public opinion never fails to yield before consistency, determination and zeal.

WHY UNIONISTS OPPOSE COMPANY "UNION"

In the Russell Sage foundation report of an investigation of the company "union" of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company, this question is asked:

"Are the unions showing wisdom in their uncompromising fight against the so-called company "union"?

The report then answers its own question by this indictment of the company "union":

"In the plan for employes' representation, however, grievances must be adjusted either by company officials or by a joint committee in which **the miner is represented solely by fellow-employes, over whom, in the last analysis, the representatives of the management have the power of discharge.**

"If the question under consideration be one in which management needs only a clearer understanding of the wage-earners' point of view to enable it to reach a just decision, the plan of conference may be a sufficient protection of the employes' interests. If, however, a decision satisfactory to the wage-earners requires some sacrifice by management or by stockholders, **then the problem is one for representative independent of the particular company, and without a treasury wherewith to pay his salary, or other expenses, can employes claim the same attention from management and boards of directors that they can secure through the activities of a union?**

"This is the fundamental issue between trade unionism and employes' representation."

PRIVATE DETECTIVE ATTEMPTS MURDER

San Francisco, Feb. 7.—Frank Brown, business agent of the Iron Molders' union, had a narrow escape from what he believes was a murder attempt. When the fellow was arrested it was found he is employed by a well known detective agency. The iron molders are on strike, and their employers are aided by the most powerful anti-union interests in this city. The assault on Brown indicates the methods being employed against labor.

Brown was followed by four men in an automobile late at night. On entering his home, a shot gun was opened fire. The unionist was hit three times. One of the bullets would have penetrated his heart had a deflection caused by a metal pencil.

JUDGING MANY BY THE FEW

Olympia, Wash., Feb. 7.—The average weekly wage of adult women workers employed in the industries of this state was $19.31 for the eight-month period ending December 31 last, according to Mrs. Delphine Johnson of the state department of labor.

Mrs. Johnson reaches this conclusion because that is the average of 2,464 women employed by concerns.

WANT OHIO COMPENSATION

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 7.—Workers in this state will ask the legislature to revive the Ohio system of compensation for industrial accidents and deaths. Under this plan the employe takes charge of these payments and eliminates profits.

"Economy" Plan Affects Workers; Engulfed By High Living Costs

Washington, Feb. 7.—While congress is wielding the economy ax onto other spends, the pruning of employes find their wage increase bill above the pre-war average salary of caught in a jam between the house and senate. The lawmakers are wrangling over the constitutional right of each branch to originate the bill.

Millions upon millions are voted without discussion, but the men and women who are paid salaries ranging from $1,800 downward receive nothing, though living costs continue upward.

The latest refusal to increase wages was made by a house committee in rejecting the pleas of employes of the botanic gardens, library of congress, the office of the architect of the capitol, the supreme court, the senate and other bureaus and departments.

With practically no discussion congress voted $150,000,000 as a refund to wealthy taxpayers whom, treasury officials announce, failed to interpret the intricate income tax law correctly, and who paid excess income taxes. These decisions are made by officials of the treasury department after meetings with attorneys of the individuals interested. The workers are not questioning the unexpected refunds or awards, but they point out that the word of a treasury official is taken in matters involving millions of dollars while the widest publicity and appeals for a living wage fail to bring relief.

In the increase tax law as corrected by the house and in Washington newspapers that some one has misinformed the president concerning the increase in excess shave before the war. The chief executive recently declared that rates for government employes has been increased $614 per year since July 1, 1913. This is technically true, but the increases went to highly paid employes.

An editorial writer in one of the local newspapers "unhesitatingly expresses the opinion that of the 66,000 employes of the federal government in Washington, more than 55,000 are today being paid not over $2565 a year above the pre-war average salary of $1,184 annually, while the great bulk of the $614 increase has gone to the other 10,000."

It is not denied that the $2565 annual increase that this writer refers to has been taken by landlords and real estate men, while these 55,000 employes are compelled to meet other increased living costs with a salary that was set more than a decade ago.

Don't waste your breath cussing the politicians and prison labor contractors.

Stop buying prison-made goods!

PRISON LABOR IS SUBSIDIZED INDUSTRY

By Publicity Department, United Garment Workers of America

Prison labor for private profit is the most highly subsidized industry in the United States. Politicians have dealt generously with many great industrial organizations, but to none have they shown such tender, paternal love as to the prison labor trust.

By some strange process of reasoning the American people seem to have come to look upon the "task" system, who exploit convict labor perform some great social service, and thereby are entitled to unusual rewards. Novelly gents have not only been able to pile up enormous fortunes by prison labor contracts, but they have come as public benefactors, philanthropists and model citizens. They have headed charitable campaigns, have helped to form organizations and gathered to themselves both wealth and respectability.

The favored gentlemen who operate their factories in prisons are presented by the taxpayers with rent, heat, light, drayage, power, supervision of working force, and labor, fed, housed, clothed and enslaved, for which they pay less than one-sixth the going wage in a given industry.

Thus, to crown our paternalistic generosity, the convict labor exploiters, or their private employes, are given absolute and despotic control of the discipline of the prisons where they operate, and they are permitted to work the convicts under the "task" system. The "task" demanded in every instance is a greater proposition than the average. Almost universally the prison labor contractor's foreman has the determining voice in the administration of punishments, and nine-tenths of all punishments administered to prisoners are inflicted because the "task" and not for bad behavior.

No other industry has ever succeeded in getting the taxpayers to pay all the overhead, and the state to provide slave labor at a fraction of the prevailing wage scale. Yet this is exactly what the prison labor contractors have "put over" on the American people.

The difference between the 30 days if the taxpayers refused to patronize convict labor contractors, and if every member of organized labor and every other decent-minded citizen demanded the union label on their purchases.

Orientals Replacing White Seamen; 'American Merchant Marine' Is Joke

Washington, Feb. 7.—While publicly professing its faith in an "American merchant marine," the United States fleet corporation continues to Orientalize these vessels.

On June 17, last year, the fleet corporation issued an order that in the manning of all merchant vessels owned by the United States shipping board and operated by private parties, through its fleet corporation, employment should be given on the following order of preference: American citizens, aliens holding intention papers, aliens eligible to citizenship.

Under this order the deck and engine department of these vessels were manned by white men. The steward's departments continued to employ Orientals.

Despite the success of this order, it was canceled on December 11 last and vessels were ordered to give Filipinos the first preference after American citizens. Aliens holding intention papers, and aliens eligible to citizenship, were given next preference.

In the steward's department chief stewards must be American citizens and other Americans are to be employed "wherever practicable," with Filipinos next in order of preference.

In a protest to President Coolidge, officers of the International Seamen's union point out that the order of preference the latest order will make the Filipinos first choice for the vessel operators.

"This will come about," the trade unionists say, "because (a) the operators have an absolutely free hand in their first preference is Chinese, their second preference is Filipinos, and since they can not have the Chinese they will have the Filipinos, in so far as the Filipinos are available. It is plainly contemplated in the circular that Filipinos and white Americans are to sail together in the same department; live, sleep and eat in the same forecastle and (b) it is perfectly well known to operators of vessels, as well as to everybody else having anything to do with shipping, that in fact, it is freely testified to by ship owners themselves—that Filipinos and white men can not be mixed in the same forecastle.

"The result of the order will, therefore, be that the American citizens, both native and naturalized, will be driven out. There is nothing now in our immigration laws or in our navigation laws to prevent Filipinos from being employed in any trade."

The unionists also stated that they conferred with officers of the fleet corporation on January 30 last and suggested that if the American merchant marine is to be Americanized the present order must be repealed, the order of December 11 be reinstated and union seamen employed instead of Filipinos, and that I. W. W.'s and smuggling Orientals. The fleet corporation refused to consider these suggestions.

The trade unionists insist that it is useless to consider the Americanization of the merchant marine of the United States shipping board. Merchant ships owned by the government are leased to private concerns. Wages and other expenses are paid by the fleet corporation.

Strikes Are Protest Against Wrong; Law Can't Check Spirit Of Liberty

Sydney, New South Wales, Feb. 7.—Organized workers in this Australian state are answering the demand of Judge Rolin of the New South Wales industrial court that the legislature punish strikers.

"The better of opinion that workers indulge in a strike for the pure love of a row?" asks the Australian Worker.

The labor paper reminds the court that when workers cease work, their wages cease, but the need for wages continues.

"The landlord still holds out an inperative demand, the tax gatherer does not expect their little accounts to be paid, and are apt to stop supplies if payment fails.

"An awkward fix for a man with a family to support!

"Children are hungry, and the wives and children of strikers get hungry, and they want boots and clothes, and with the best heads in the country did when there was no strike, and the wages were punctually on the spot at the week's end.

"What a situation for a man to face!

"Had Judge Rolin ever been confronted with such a problem in his own person, he would not have spoken as he has.

"It would have humanized him. Most of our judges are sadly deficient in humanity.

"It is the fundamental weakness of the law, when the law needs an instrument of class oppression.

"Judge Rolin and other legal dogmatists do not realize that the spirit which incites the workers to strike is a valuable spirit. That is the measure of their incompetence.

"Luckily it does not matter. The light is spreading, and they can not bered with the shadows that will pass."

PENNSY AT OLD TRICKS; RESISTS TRADE UNIONS

Chicago, Feb. 7.—Officials of the Pennsylvania railroad have renewed their defense of their company "union," which has been overwhelmingly rejected by telegraphers employed on that system.

By a vote of 4,258 to 318, the telegraphers selected the Order of Railroad Telegraphers as their wage negotiating agency. Railroad officials attempted to intimidate these employes into voting for the company "union." The railroad labor board controlled the election. The transportation act provides that railroad employes may select their own representatives, and under this section of the law, the balloting was held.

The verdict will not be accepted by the Pennsylvania management, whose officials have called for an election by the company "union." In an attempt to block this, A. J. President Atterbury assailed "attempts, governmental and otherwise, to drive a wedge between railroad management and railroad employes."

General Atterbury said any employe can belong to any union he desires, but the railroad company insists on dealing with its own employes.

In other words, these employes may belong to a union, but the company will see that it does not function.

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WAGE CUTS RESTORED IN ANTI-UNION FIELD

Indianapolis, Feb. 7.—All of the large independent anti-union coal and coke companies in the Connellsville (Penn.) field that reduced wages last year have restored these cuts, according to officials of the United Mine Workers.

"This action knocks the foundation from under anti-union coal companies of West Virginia and other fields who demand wage reductions," says the Mine Workers' Journal.

The Connellsville field always was notoriously anti-union. Following the nation-wide miners' strike of 1922, unionism gained a foothold in that section, but the workers permitted themselves to fall into the non-union rut.

Except the H. C. Frick company, owned by the steel trust, the Connellsville output comes with union coal and with the non-union coal of West Virginia and Kentucky. These anti-union concerns have insisted that wages must be reduced to sell coal. They have secured the aid of other coal owners to attack the United Mine Workers.

"Nothing more is needed to show that the clamor for wage reductions is mere bunk," says the United Mine Workers' Journal. "Those inefficerous anti-union coal companies of West Virginia and Kentucky must now find some other excuse for their wage cutting, because the anti-union companies of the Connellsville field have shot their argument full of holes."

NATION IS INJURED BY EVERY WAGE CUT

—President Green.

Washington, Feb. 7.—"It has not yet been thoroughly learned that every industry that reduces wages hurts every other industry and thus exerts an effect on human life much like the effect that is created on water by the casting of a stone into it," says the president of the A. F. of L., writing in American Federationist, current issue.

"The waves roll on in circle after circle. As the wages of carpenters are reduced, their purchasing power is fewer textiles. If the wages of textile workers are reduced, then textile workers have less money with which to buy the commodities of other workers. Every thing is interdependent. They make the old statement clear. Then they burn less coal, or no coal at all. So it goes. Every center of depression radiates depression to concentric rings.

"Perhaps the textile mills will not be alone in the effort to reduce wages. Perhaps some other employers may be as blind to their own welfare and as blind to the general welfare of all industry and of the people generally. Perhaps it will be so. It has been so before.

"At such times there is but one course and that for the workers. They must resist to the end. They must stand together to prevent the lowering of standards that have been built up. They must fight against being driven backward.

Fly-by-night employers. Tomorrow it may be some one else. Whoever is attacked must resist. To be driven in submission may be the role of the dumb beast. It is not the part of men.

"Every group that resists does so not for itself alone, but for all workers. Whenever a group forges ahead it leaves a standard to which others, sooner or later, follow. Wherever a group submits to being driven back, it leaves a breach through which others, sooner or later, may be driven.

"Elaborate schemes for the stoppage of unemployment have been devised in much. But the unions of the workers, by their steadfast resistance to wage reductions, can and must hold the line. There is no better, surer method of cutting down unemployment.

"Wage reductions is the first step toward complete idleness.

"Let there be no backward step anywhere!"

"A TALE OF TWO CITIES"

Jersey City, N. J., Feb. 7.—City officials refused to compel taxicab drivers to operate during the strike of chauffeurs. The employers agreed to improved working conditions and the strike ended.

Dayton, Ohio, Feb. 7.—City officials have sworn in as policemen a score of strikebreakers employed by the Dayton street railway company.

REPUDIATES PLEDGE

Olympia, Wash., Feb. 7.—According to organized labor, Governor Hartley has established a record in repudiating his party platforms and election pledges. This charge includes opposition to the child labor amendment, satisfied with reversing his position on the anti-picketing law, opposition to the state federation of labor points out, and the use of billboards and branded members of churches, women's clubs, the American legion, labor organizations and other bodies opposed to our state who are supporting the child labor amendment, the anti-picketing blacksmiths, socialists, bolsheviats and enemies of our government."

JOHN M'LENNAN PASSES ON

Denver, Feb. 7.—John McLennan, president of the Colorado state federation of labor for nine consecutive terms, died of pneumonia. He was president of district No. 15, United Mine Workers, during the strike against the Colorado Fuel and Iron company in 1913-14 that culminated in the burning of the Ludlow tent colony.